

The Eagle and The Crescent

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Transition to Self-Reliance

May 20, 2005

Fallujah holds first city council meeting

Press Release

II Marine Expeditionary Force (FWD)

The first democratically-elected city council of Fallujah held its inaugural meeting Wednesday at the Civil-Military Operations Center in Fallujah.

The 20-member council met for approximately two hours, during which time they elected the chairman, vice chairman and secretary of the council. Imams, sheiks, engineers, lawyers, educators, administrators and businessmen are among those who make up the council.

Sheik Khalid Hammoud Mahal al-Joumaily, newly-elected chairman, said "We are happy with the free democratic process which led to a successful election."

Mohamed Hussain Alzobai, representative of the Provincial Council, attended the meeting and offered words of encouragement to the Fallujah City Council. "You are the ones selected to represent the people of Fallujah and we hope your intent is good for the people of Fallujah," said Alzobai. "You must do what you can to encourage the people to vote in the upcoming election."



1st Lt. Blanca E. Binstock

Amjed Rasheed Hameed, a Provincial Council member, tallies the votes for vice chairman of the Fallujah City Council next to Mohamed Hussain Alzobai, a Provincial Council member.

2nd MP Bn compound rededicated

Cpl. Christi Prickett

II Marine Expeditionary Force (FWD)

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq -- In recognition of Peace Officers Memorial Day May 15, a dedication service was held to rename a new compound here occupied by 2nd Military Police Battalion, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Headquarters Group, II MEF (FWD), formerly part of 2nd Force Service Support Group.

The compound was named after Sgt. Andrew K. Farrar Jr., 3rd platoon, Alpha Company, 2nd MP Bn., 2nd FSSG, who was killed in action in Al Anbar province,

Iraq, on Jan. 28 -- also his 31st birthday -- while assigned to 1st FSSG, I MEF (FWD).

As a close friend and comrade to the Marines in the battalion, Farrar left an impression none of them will forget.

"We still have sadness in our heart because we miss him," said Chaplain (Lt. Cmdr.) Phillip E. Lee, 8th Communication Bn. and 2nd MP Bn., during a prayer. "We want to thank God for the United States Marines and what they are doing for Sergeant Farrar and what he did for our country."

Master Sgt. Chris A. Burgess, a Savona,

N.Y., native, one of Farrar's staff noncommissioned officers, made the sign that will be hung in front of the compound.

"I draw pretty regularly and this sign took a few weeks or so to draw," said Burgess, operations chief, 2nd MP Bn. "The idea for the sign came to me one day as we were discussing what we wanted."

The sign is made from a large wooden board with an eagle drawn around the words "Camp Farrar." It is a reminder of the story behind Farrar's life and his dedication to the Corps, said Burgess.

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FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
 Low: 75F High: 103F Sunrise 0602D Sunset 2003D ILLUM 86 %	 Low: 78F High: 105F Sunrise 0602D Sunset 2004D ILLUM 92 %	 Low: 80F High: 108F DUST Sunrise 0601D Sunset 2006D ILLUM 97 %	 Low: 80F High: 108F DUST Sunrise 0601D Sunset 2006D ILLUM 99 %

Camp Fallujah

MWR events

Country Night: There will be a country night held at the MWR recreation center tonight from 9:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Hip-Hop Night: Come out to the recreation center for some hip-hop music and dance, Saturday night from 9:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Movie Night: Every day at 3 a.m., 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. a movie will be played at the recreation center back room.

For more information, contact the MWR supervisor at: crystal.nadeau@halliburton.com

From the Director of Public Affairs:

Dear Reader – Welcome to another edition of the The Eagle & The Crescent. My Marines and I strive each week to paint a picture of the lives led here in Iraq by the men and women of II MEF (FWD). The stories told herein focus on people and personalities, not breaking news or politics. They are stories of day-to-day living; of seemingly routine tasks performed in a foreign land; of men and women focused on a mission. It is a mission that will not succeed overnight, but over time, with tenacity, patience and dedication tested constantly by heat, tension, and distance from home. We find such stories are often overlooked within the popular media and least often shared with our families and friends back home.

My hope is you'll know your service men and women a bit better after you read this newsletter, and I invite you to both share it with others and let me know how it can be improved. It is one more way you can support the Marines, Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and civilians of Multi-National Force – West.

LtCol. Dave Lapan

Director, II MEF (FWD) Public Affairs
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II Marine Expeditionary Force (FWD)

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Chaplain's Corner:

Everybody should be packin'

Lt. Cmdr. Phillip E. Lee
8th Communication Bn.



If you haven't noticed yet, we dress for church a little differently here from the way we normally do back home. We all packed for a desert warfare

environment. Most of us would not be wearing "desert diggies" or combat boots if we were headed off to church with our family or friends.

The most striking difference here is just about everybody is packin' a weapon of some kind. It even takes a bit of physical adjustment in our seating arrangements to make sure everyone has a satisfactory place to situate their pistol or put their rifle while they worship God. It probably takes some mental adjustment for our family members and friends to even imagine what this picture looks like because we have not seen this kind of necessity in the United States for many generations.

Of course, packin' at church is routine behavior for Marines, Sailors and Soldiers because everybody knows, "You don't go anywhere without your weapon." This principle is especially true here because we are not simply training anymore; we are in a combat zone. I, for one, take comfort if we have to go to church packin' we do it here, rather than back home, so our families only have to imagine this picture and hopefully never experience it in person. A concern for defending this right to freedom of religion for my family and others is one more reason why I am here serving with fellow military members.

We should give similar spiritual ef-

fort to "taking up the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God" (Eph 6:17). It would be considered foolish here for a person to go outside "the wire" (the line of protection) without some means of protecting themselves. The same is true for a person of faith. It would be unwise to go into our daily activities and into the world without being armed with the word of God. It was God's word Jesus used to resist temptation. (Matt 4:1-11) The Psalmist hid God's word in his heart to avoid sin. (Psalm 119:11) St. Paul wrote, "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17) In other words, don't leave your room or camp without this vital resource for surviving spiritual turmoil!

We should expect to become quite familiar with this weapon if we intend to make proper use of God's word in our spiritual walk and challenges. Packing into church with the people of God is one of the best places I know for acquiring the training necessary to accurately apply God's word to our lives. Many have the misperception I do not have any weapons because I am a chaplain. Actually, I have access to the most powerful weapon known in all the earth—the word of God. This Sunday, I will be leading the sword drills (preaching) at one of the Protestant Services at Camp Fallujah. If you can't make that service or location, then try one of the many other worship opportunities packed with insights and inspiration to improve your spiritual skills.

Find a friend and come packin' so we can pack into church and pack God's Word into our souls. Then we will be better prepared to go out armed with the eternal protection faith provides. Everybody should be packin'!

John 1:1

3/4, Iraqi forces operate side-by-side

Lance Cpl. Paul Robbins Jr.
2nd Marine Division

FALLUJAH, Iraq -- The execution of Operation Block Party II was similar to past operations conducted here, but the planning and deployment of troops was a little different.

Marines of 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment and two battalions of the Iraqi army worked side-by-side in the planning, deployment and execution of the operation which took place May 9 - 14.

"This is the first time the (Iraqi army) staff has participated in the planning process in our operations," said Capt. Sean K. Butler, the 36-year-old future plans officer for the battalion.

Since the battalion's arrival in January, Iraqi forces have participated in every operation conducted around the city, but most of the planning was done by Marines, according to Butler, a native of Mt. Shasta, Calif.

"During Block Party II, they deployed their units without direct Marine oversight," Butler said, "We were equal partners in this operation."

Two companies of Marines and four companies of Iraqi soldiers conducted a cordon and knock operation in the southern half of Fallujah.

Teams of Iraqi soldiers, with Marines in tow, moved from house-to-house asking permission to search for weapons, ordnance and terrorist activity.

"We were there to assert our presence in the city and ensure there was no contraband," said 1st Sgt. David M. Reaves, the 41-year-old company first sergeant for India Company.

Only a small amount of ordnance was found during the operation, most

of it pointed out by the local residents.

The Marines see the meager findings as a testament to the effectiveness of daily operations in the city.

"It shows that our entry control points and patrols are working," said Reaves, a native of San Mateo, Calif. "The terrorists are aware they can't operate freely in Fallujah."

Another strong point of the operation was the cooperation and friendliness of the local residents.

Fallujah homeowners and families greeted the joint forces with smiles, and offered refreshments as the Marines and Iraqi soldiers conducted the search.

"People back in the states would be offended by an operation like this," said Cpl. Robert E. Davies, a 26-year-old squad leader with India Company.

"But these people welcome you."

During the operation, many citizens approached Marines and Iraqi soldiers to express their gratitude and appreciation.

Most of the residents understand the effect of the joint operations in the city. Some even ask the Marines to stay in Fallujah, according to Davies, a native of San Bruno, Calif.

"It's mostly the older males, but they'll approach us and ask us not to leave the city," Davies said, "They know that what we're doing makes them safe."

With the cooperation of local citizens, increased participation of Iraqi forces and proven effectiveness of local missions, the battalion maintains a positive outlook on future operations.



Lance Cpl. Paul Robbins Jr.

An Iraqi soldier stands security outside of a home as Marines of 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 8, search for weapons and contraband, during Operation Block Party II, conducted from May 9-14 in Fallujah, Iraq. Two Marine companies and four Iraqi companies conducted a house-to-house search in southern Fallujah.

Engineers help make convoys safer

Cpl. John E. Lawson Jr.

2nd Force Service Support Group(FWD)

AL ASAD, Iraq -- The Marines of 6th Engineer Support Battalion, augmenting 8th ESB and supporting Combat Logistics Battalion 2, 2nd Force Service Support Group (FWD), have been hard at work repairing the roadways throughout western Iraq to help make convoy operations safer for fellow service members.

During one engineer crater repair mission here recently, the ECR team filled two large holes totaling 115 bags, or more than 1,800 cubic feet of concrete. The two holes took the team several hours to repair in temperatures exceeding 100 degrees Fahrenheit. All of the work, including the manual labor, was done while the Marines wore their full protective gear, including Interceptor vest, helmet and ballistic goggles.

Once the holes are identified by convoys traversing the roadways in the region, the team assesses the situation and begins their planning.

Like any other convoy in the region, the team is a potential target for insurgent activity once they set out to repair the holes, many of which are often caused by mine explosions, improvised explosive devices or excessive wear on the road itself. A military police security detachment and machine guns mounted on many of their trucks helps to lessen the threat.

The military police detachment establishes a safe perimeter and diverts all non-military traffic around the site while repairs are being made and teams begin sweeping the area for mines, said Cpl. Brett M. Taylor, construction team leader.

When the crater is deemed clear of potential threats, the team uses shovels to clear loose debris from inside and uses spray paint to mark where the surface needs to be cut with a jackhammer.

Cleaning the edges with a jackhammer helps ensure the concrete will stick to the existing road.

"The patch is supposed to be compatible with the existing road. It has to be able to withstand traffic from tanks," the Hillsboro, Ore., native said.

Once the cutting and cleaning of the hole is complete, the team lays supports, often utilizing sections of chain-link fence or HESCO wire, and begins to mix the concrete.

A mixture of concrete, a quick-setting concrete, locally-acquired aggregate, and water they transport via a tanker truck is used to hand-mix on site.

Filling the craters with concrete smoothes the road and removes obstacles which slow convoys, keeping them in harm's

way longer than necessary.

"If we can deny the insurgents an opportunity to do harm, we could be keeping someone alive," said Sgt. Paul Cook, assistant convoy commander.

With numerous ECR missions under their belt, the Marines of 6th and 8th ESBs continue to do their part to make Iraq a safer place.

"They don't do it to please anyone; they do it for the mission, mission accomplishment," said the Grant's Pass, Ore., native. "They're an incredibly hard-working bunch of Marines and they take pride in everything they do."



Cpl. John E. Lawson Jr.

AL ASAD, Iraq – Marines from 6th Engineer Support Battalion, augmenting 8th ESB and supporting Combat Logistics Battalion 2, 2nd Force Service Support Group (FWD), pour concrete into a crater in western Iraq recently as part of an engineer crater repair mission. Filling the craters helps speed convoys and eliminates potential hiding places for insurgents to place mines and Improvised Explosive Devices.

'Tomcats' finish deployment, return home

Cpl. C. Alex Herron

2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (FWD)

AL ASAD, Iraq -- Two hundred Marines with Marine Attack Squadron 311 returned to their home base, Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., Wednesday after completing a six-month tour.

The 'Tomcats' were on the prowl within eight hours after their AV-8B Harriers touched down here, Nov. 13, 2004.

As they return home, VMA-311 now boasts a record for flying the most combat flight hours by any Harrier squadron, having flown more than 6,200 hours during their 3,400 sorties throughout Iraq.

"We have flown three times our normal amount since arriving here," said Maj. Rob Schroder, the operations officer for VMA-311. "We have shown the Harrier community, given proper maintenance and supplies, our aircraft can perform extremely well."

The 'Tomcats' have been working at a high tempo since their arrival and proved when a mission needs to be accomplished, Marines will get it done no matter what the conditions.

"We have worked 12-hour days since we started here," said Lt. Col. Robert Kuckuk, commanding officer of VMA-311. "We are proof working in an austere environment with no breaks, through all the holidays, Marines can still keep a fast work tempo."

"These guys came out here focused, charged and ready to work," said Gunnery Sgt. Faron Valencia, a quality assurance technician with the 'Tomcats'. "Tasks that could take up to two weeks in Yuma took a couple of days out here. It was because all of our Marines worked together really well and came together to get our birds ready for their next mission."

The biggest obstacle for the mechanics wasn't working on the aircraft, but the layout of their facilities. Instead of working in one hangar, the different shops were split between a maintenance building, a sea hut,

tents and a temporary hangar on the flightline.

"The distance between shops was a hassle at times," Valencia said. "When the different shops needed to order a part or get something from another work section they couldn't just walk to the other side of a hangar."

While the mechanics had to learn to deal with the inconvenience in their work area, the pilots had to become accustomed to flying most of their missions under the cover of darkness. Back in Yuma, pilots spend about 10 - 20 percent of their overall flight time at night. Since being here the 'Tomcat' pilots have flown more than 70 percent of their flight time in darkness.

"Flying at night is different than flying during the day," Kuckuk said. "I have guys that have 80 percent of their time at night. It wasn't unusual for our pilots to go weeks without seeing the sunlight. This is a 24-hour war."

During those long nights the Harrier pi-

lots were able to see the progress of the Iraqi people as their deployment wore on.

"In November, we hardly saw any lights on the ground, then gradually the cities began to get power and we could see the lights multiplying as we spent more time over here," Schroder said. "It is a testament to what we are doing here. With our assistance, the troops on the ground are able to keep the cities secure so the Iraqis could restore power."

From the battle of Fallujah to the elections, the 'Tomcats' witnessed progress throughout Iraq. Although, according to them, the biggest difference they made was in the minds of the ground Marines they supported while in flight over Iraq.

By providing close air support to the Marines on the ground the 'Tomcats' saved numerous lives not only by dropping bombs, but just sheer presence. The sound of their aircraft was enough to keep the enemy at bay, and instill confidence in the Marines on the ground that they were there if needed.



Cpl. C. Alex Herron

AL ASAD, Iraq – An AV-8B Harrier of Marine Attack Squadron 311 lands after completing one of the more than 3,400 sorties the unit completed in their six-month deployment here. The 'Tomcats' returned home to Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., May 17.

Illinois native plans for law school

Cpl. C.J. Yard

2nd Force Service Support Group (FWD)

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq -- For a Marine who has earned two degrees from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, he has no qualms about doing administrative work for his four-year enlistment.

Lance Cpl. Robert Walker, a Peoria, Ill., native, graduated from college at the age of 30 with a degree in radio and television production and another degree in photojournalism. Due to the lack of jobs in the civilian sector, and having crossed off almost everything on his "to do" list, Walker looked into joining the military.

"When I originally talked to the recruiter I wanted to do combat photography," said the 32-year-old administrative clerk. "Unfortunately the [Military Occupational Specialty] was closed and I wanted to ship out to boot camp as soon as possible. I knew administration like the back of my hand from the years I worked at a hospital."

Walker was hired full time at a hospital in Illinois right after high school and saw it as a good opportunity to work and save money for college. Once in college he joined the fraternity Sigma Phi Epsilon, boasting the Greek letters on his ankle.

"That's where I learned to clean so well," said Walker smiling. "We always had to clean up the house after the weekend of partying."

According to Walker's roommates, he's meticulous about cleaning their room as well.

"It doesn't matter if we clean it, he's always going behind us and redoing everything," said Lance Cpl. Brandon Myers, an administra-

tive clerk and native of Canton, Ill.

Myers and Lance Cpl. Joseph Delicino, a Pacifica, Calif., native, also an administrative clerk in the battalion administration shop, claim they even get him to play video games once in awhile, but he usually quits early to work out.

When not working in the administration shop, Walker can usually be found in the gym, sweat pouring off his clean-shaven head, working out and attending the "Killer Abs" class taught here, citing "I just don't like to be fat," for his reason.

"I usually try to work out every day," said the former college cheerleader. "You have to be in pretty good shape to do that. Besides, you can't take your shirt off at the club if you're fat!"

However, Walker found being able to do a two-minute floor cheer routine and run were two different types of "in shape."

"I could do a floor routine and not even be winded," said Walker. "But I couldn't run for nothing. My roommate before I joined was in the Army, so he and I would run. Once I got to boot camp all the other recruits were telling me not to beat the drill instructors and I was like, 'I can't help it.' I was just running."

He also takes time to help others.

"Walker also takes his personal time to help Marines to better themselves who aren't as strong," said 1st Lt. Lauren Diana, Headquarters Company commander and Westerville, Ohio, native. "He motivates the Marines here. He always keeps the Marines' spirits high."

Coming to Iraq with Combat Logistics Battalion 8, 2d Force Service Support Group (FWD), Walker had an idea of what to expect after working for the sergeant major and his company commander of his current unit while stationed at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

"I had worked with Sergeant Major Ainsworth and Lieutenant Diana before," said Walker. "I thought, 'Well, if they're going, then I should go too.'"

"I hand picked Lance Cpl. Walker because in a deployed environment, you need a strong shop," said Diana. "I needed somebody who is strong in the administrative and legal aspects of an S-1. He is all the functions of the administration shop. Whatever I task him with, whether he knows how to do it or not, he can get it done because he will figure out how to do it. He catches on very quickly."

Walker, will use his experience in the Marine Corps to help him with his future plans of attending law school.

"I'm going to have a little edge when I finally get to law school," he said. "I already know a little bit about it, and the processes of some if it because of the legal side of my job."

"I know that Lance Cpl. Walker has talked about going through [Officer Candidate School] on a legal contract because he wants to be a lawyer," said Diana. "I think he would make a great lawyer in the Marine Corps."



Cpl. C.J. Yard

Lance Cpl. Robert Walker, an administrative clerk with Headquarters Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 8, 2d Force Service Support Group (FWD), watches intently as the instructor for the "Killer Abs" class demonstrates the next exercise. Walker, a 32-year-old native of Peoria, Ill., said he likes to work out, citing "I just don't like to be fat," for his main reason.

'5-25' campaign increases IED awareness

Press Release

Multi-National Corps - Iraq

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq -- Improvised explosive devices are the number one killers of America's sons and daughters serving in Iraq, and the Joint IED Defeat Task Force at Camp Victory is kicking off an information campaign May 25 in an effort to increase IED awareness and save lives.

The "5-and-25" campaign, as it is called, is designed to increase IED awareness and reduce the effectiveness of the mountain of makeshift bombs being produced by insurgents. Officials say the deceptive devices account for more than half of the coalition deaths that have occurred since the start of the Iraq war in March 2003.

Efforts to date have reduced the IED casualty rate by more than 45 percent during the period of April 2004 through February 2005 – but that is not seen as enough.

"IEDs are our number one killers here," said Eric Eglund, Iraq headquarters of Joint IED Defeat Task Force at Camp Victory. The task force is responsible for developing innovative ways to rid the country of IEDs.

The deadly devices are considered a highly effective means of killing people because they can quickly be set up anywhere and be set to blow at any time. They have been disguised as virtually everything from tree trunks and dead animals to bicycles and pregnant women.

Royal Australian Air Force Group Capt. David Stockdale, deputy chair of the IED Working Group at Multi-National Corps-Iraq, said there is no limit to what insurgents will use for IEDs.

Stockdale, who serves as the equivalent of a colonel in the American Air Force, has been actively working the issue of IEDs and their effects since arriving in Iraq a few months ago.

"The IED is one of the most dangerous threats to coalition forces," Stockdale said. "To mitigate their effects, we wanted to put together an information campaign that would make the IED reaction drill a normal part of daily activities for the coalition forces."

Eglund said several different counter-IED organizations were already delivering good messages and possible solutions out there, but with no real emphasis or impact to the

troops who needed it the most. "It wasn't as good as it could be. Some channels just naturally don't flow as well as others," he said.

The working group, deputy-chaired by Stockdale, represents a cross-section of coalition forces formed as a result of this issue.

The group's solution for getting vital information to the forces required three objectives: First, ensure information gets to those troops who need it most; second, develop an effective counter-IED organization that can take the fight to the enemy; third, produce pinpointed products from one organization which can be approved and delivered in a timely fashion.

"IEDs can be any time, anywhere, any shape; the trends change," Stockdale said. "The aim is to get the message to the field. It's dangerous out there."

To push information to the troops anywhere and any time trends change, the working group assembled a small team of designers to brainstorm effective ways to get the word out. The first idea also seemed the

See IED, Page 10

Caught in the Spotlight

Although most recruits only go to boot camp once during their Marine Corps career, a Marine with II Marine Expeditionary Force, Headquarters Group, II MEF (FWD), made the trip twice due to a broken leg.

Private first class Nathan E. Davis, 22, administration specialist with S-1, first set off to Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island in November 2001, to turn his life around and follow in the foot steps of his uncles.

"As long as I can remember I wanted to be a Marine," said Davis, a native of Cincinnati. "The first time I left for boot camp, I ended up breaking my leg after five weeks. I got a medical discharge and was sent home. I was really disappointed, but I knew that I didn't want to do anything else, so I was determined to come back."

While at home healing his leg, Davis had a lot of time to think about what it was going to take to make it back to the island.

"The whole time I was at home, not a single day went by where I didn't think about going back to finish what I

started," he said. "Once I start something I don't feel comfortable until it's done. It just built up on me because I was seeing Marines going to Iraq on TV, and I knew I should be there."

After spending nearly a year and a half talking to recruiters and frequenting the Military Entrance Processing Station, Davis was given a second chance to fulfill his dream.

"After going to MEPS about nine times, I was finally cleared to go back in May 2003," Davis said with elation. "I had to build my mind up on my own because I knew what to expect when I got there. The recruits would ask me what was coming up next in the training through the first month. Having been there once before, I was a lot stronger mentally the second time."

Davis, who is stationed at Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans, is serving under temporary additional duty orders on his first deployment to Iraq.

When he's not busy working in the admin office, Davis spends his free time working out at the gym or watching movies.



Pfc. Nathan E. Davis

LMS helps Marines learn from past

Lance Cpl. Evan M. Eagan

II Marine Expeditionary Force (FWD)

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq -- The face of war has been constantly changing since the Marine Corps was established in 1775. New threats in different environments have resulted in the development of new equipment, tactics and doctrine to combat these changes. However, with change also comes a long learning process where inexperience can result in the loss of Marines.

Recording knowledge learned through battle-tested situations is more important than ever. To improve Marines' combat effectiveness, the Marine Corps Center for Lessons Learned has created the Lessons Management System to ensure this information will be readily available to keep Marines informed and in the fight.

"By systematically capturing lessons from not only the battlefield, but from everything we do, and making them available to the average Marine, we cannot only save lives and win battles, but make every

aspect of our jobs better," said Col. Danny McDade, senior liaison officer, MCCLL, II Marine Expeditionary Force (FWD), and reservist from Rockford, Ill.

The MCCLL is part of the Marine Corps Combat Development Command and aims "to collect, analyze, manage and disseminate knowledge gained through operational experiences, exercises, and supporting activities in order to enable Marines to achieve higher levels of performance and to provide information and analysis on emerging issues and trends in support of operational commanders," according to the official MCCLL Web site.

Since the beginning of the Marine Corps, whether it was written down or passed by word of mouth, there has always been some type of lessons learned system in place.

"One of the things we are finding new with the current MCCLL is we are relearning lessons again and again," said Maj. Kevin Mooney, liaison officer, II MEF (FWD) and reservist from Hercules, Calif.

"If we go back to World War II and look at an after action report, you can see the repetition over the years. We're doing the same things wrong now that we were doing back then. We are also doing the same things right that we were doing back then, but the lessons learned usually come hard."

The Lessons Management System is a web-based system that contains documented experiences from before Operation Desert Storm, to include some from Vietnam.

"With our new web-based system you can pull up those lessons, the databases are all searchable," said Mooney, a deputy sheriff for the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department. "For instance, if you have a particular area of interest, such as fighting in urban environments, you can search the database for that specific topic."

The LMS is user friendly and is designed to be accessed by anyone who has valuable information.

"The Web site is geared toward every man's ability to put into the system," said McDade, an Emergency Medical Service helicopter pilot for St. Anthony's Medical Center in his hometown. "It's the lowest Marine who has the good idea and he can register and put his idea or observation into the system. All of those ideas out there, when they are grouped together become a catalyst for change. For the guys who are actually out there winning the war, it becomes their tool to get the recommended changes into the system to get them what they need."

With the current operational tempo of Marines in Iraq, it is important to be able to analyze and disseminate the information as quickly as possible.

"We are trying to do a quick turnaround and get them [lessons learned] back down to the Marines who are on the ground by inserting them in the training and operational process," said Mooney.

Marines can access the MCCLL Lessons Management System visit, <http://www.mccll.usmc.mil>.



Lance Cpl. Evan M. Eagan

Colonel Danny McDade, senior liaison officer, and Maj. Kevin Mooney, liaison officer, from Marine Corps Center for Lessons Learned, II Marine Expeditionary Force (FWD), sit next to their sign May 17. The MCCLL has developed the Lessons Management System, a web-based system users can access to view documented lessons from before Desert Storm.

Marine knowledge for combat Navy

Gunnery Sgt. Shannon Arledge
2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (FWD)

AL ASAD, Iraq -- Three Sailors from Marine Wing Support Squadron 271, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (FWD), are now Enlisted Fleet Marine Force Warfare Specialists. The Sailors were decorated with the Fleet Marine Force Warfare pin May 15.

Petty Officer 1st Class Dennis Self, from Birmingham, Ala., Petty Officer 3rd Class Dale Wolkenhauer, a native of Clearlake, Calif., and Seaman Joseph Tibbits from Saginaw, Mich., stand out among the ranks wearing one of the U.S. Navy's newest warfare designators.

The Sailors endured more than 100 hours of intense written and practical application to qualify for the pin, adopted into the U.S. Navy enlisted ranks in July 2000. The Sailors were required to master 14 core subjects, ranging from Marine Corps history and weapons systems to understanding the Marine Air Ground Task Force concept of tailoring forces to meet the specific needs of a mission.

"I feel I can better speak the common language of a corpsman with the Marines," said Self. "It's like I'm finally part of the Marines I serve. Should I be needed, I will be better equipped to assist the Marines in accomplishing the mission."

Mastering the subjects was a lengthy process and these shipmates not only passed a written exam, as well as meeting other administrative qualifications, but were required to complete a series of oral boards, totaling four to six hours.

"I have a better understanding of the Fleet Marine Force, the equipment, techniques and procedures and efforts set forth by our Marines," said Wolkenhauer. "I already have tremendous respect and gratitude for the Marines. Achieving this has encouraged me to strive harder to provide the best medical care possible for our Marines."

These three Sailors are part of the unit's medical team providing care for more than 1,200 Marines and Sailors here. Included in their daily medical routine, they convoy with the unit and also support explosive ordnance disposal on missions to detect improvised explosive devices. Their mission as U.S. Navy corpsmen place them side-by-side with their Marine brothers supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"These Sailors have proven they can acquire essential knowledge inherent to the combat forces we support, increasing their ability to understand and support the mission," said

Chief Petty Officer John M. Westfield, a native of Dallas, Pa., and senior enlisted medical corpsman. "In my opinion there is no more appropriate place than to be in a combat zone and qualify for this device."

"This is a great accomplishment," said Tibbits. "I've studied hard and feel more prepared to serve alongside the Marines here. I've been preparing for this for two years, and now I have a better understanding of the Marine Corps and its components."

Westfield says this program provides Sailors with much needed information and skills. He stated if these Sailors were on a mission and came under fire they could not only serve as corpsmen, but step up to the plate and assist the Marines in defeating the enemy.

"Candidates must exhibit extreme proficiency in all subjects, to include demonstration of land navigation essentials, weapons (usually 9mm and M16A2) and put together and operate a field radio," added Westfield. "It takes a lot of personal commitment and time, often hours and days of studying to become proficient. It makes better Sailors all the way around and that's what we want. Simply stated, knowledge is power."



Gunnery Sgt. Shannon Arledge

The Enlisted Fleet Marine Force Warfare Specialist pin was adopted into the U.S. Navy fleet in July 2000. Only Sailors assigned to Fleet Marine Force units can qualify for the device, however all Sailors must complete the program within 18 months of reporting to a command in the operational forces. Sailors are required to master 14 core subjects, ranging from Marine Corps history and weapons, to the Marine Air Ground Task Force.

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Farrar was a 1992 graduate of Weymouth High School, Weymouth, Mass. and the older brother of Jason, Nathan and Bethany. Farrar married his high school sweetheart, Melissa, in 1996 and the couple had two sons, Tyler and Liam.

"When people walk through the gates, they may ask where the name came from," he said. "We want them all to know who Farrar was and what he meant to us."

The dedication was completed by a bottle of grape juice in lieu of wine being broken against the building and a candle being lit.

"The breaking of the bottle represents the brokenness that occurred here," said Lee. "The juice spilling out represents the blood that was shed, and the candle represents hope for the future."

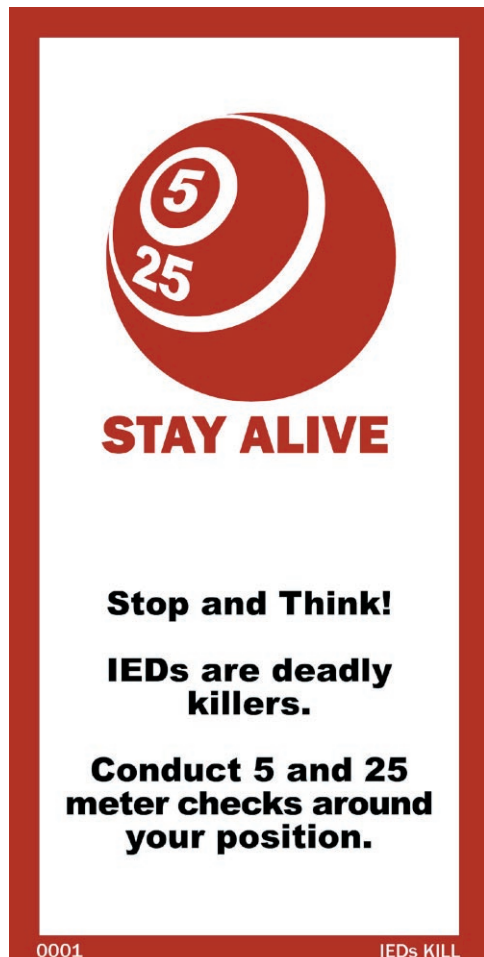
The somber ceremony ended after a letter was read from the family.

"Andrew's memory can be preserved very easily," said Farrar's father, Andrew K. Farrar Sr. "Speak often of him and the brave men and women like him... God bless America. God bless Andrew K. Farrar Jr."



Cpl. Christi Prickett

In honor of Sgt. Andrew K. Farrar Jr., a final roll call was given May 15 at a ceremony that named the new 2nd Military Police Battalion compound after him. Farrar, 2nd MP Bn., 2nd Force Service Support Group, was killed in Al Anbar province, Iraq, on his 31st birthday, Jan. 28.



IED, from Page 7

most obvious one to start the campaign -- military publications.

Task force members agreed they needed some common thread to tie all the messages together -- like a logo.

"The [designers] suggested we needed to have [a logo] that everybody recognizes," said Lt. Col. Theodore Martin, field team leader, Joint IED Defeat Task Force-Iraq. "5-and-25" became that logo. "The most important thing coalition forces can accomplish is situational awareness when they're outside the wire; it is the most basic [tactic] that you have to master."

"This seemed appropriate because 5-and-25 means awareness," said Master Sgt. William Johnson, one of three designers. "5-and-25 means checking the area around you for a threat. Every time you stop outside a secure area, you always should check. Not checking could get you killed."

More specifically, 5-and-25 requires that troops look for anything out of the ordinary within a five-meter radius of their vehicles, according to counter-IED policies. If halted long enough, forces should then exit their vehicles and conduct a 25-meter sweep around their position. Halting for as little as

four minutes can prove costly.

"Evidence shows that [many] Soldiers, who are at a short halt [for as little as] four to five minutes, are getting hit by IEDs near their vehicles," Martin said.

Besides the recognizable 5-and-25 logo getting printed in military publications, the campaign will also produce messages to other outlets that could potentially reach as far away as the Department of Defense and Afghanistan.

"This time it's [newspaper ads], next time it will be commercials on TV and radio," Martin said. "After that, we're looking at expanding it. The sky is the limit."

Included in the laundry list of ideas are bumper stickers, flash screens on Web sites, stress balls and even Frisbees, according to Martin.

Whatever the means, Stockdale said the message must stay focused with one purpose: to save lives.

"There's no predicting exactly where, when or how you're going to meet an IED when you're driving around," Stockdale said. "Practicing those basic methods and regularly using them significantly enhances your chances of survival."